

children become successful adults. I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this simple legislation that will improve the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding two earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Request No. 1:

Requesting Member: Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction/U.S. Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army/Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Address of Requesting Entity: Office of Command, Fort Rucker, 453 Novosel Street, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362-5105.

Description of Request: The Chapel Center at Fort Rucker earmark request is for \$6,800,000. The funding is for the construction of a standard-design chapel complex featuring a sanctuary (400 seat capacity) and an activity center that is capable of seating an additional 239 people in a separate or combined service. The sanctuary will include a raised pulpit area and a baptismal suite. The facility also will include 15 religious education classrooms, two multi-purpose rooms, a blessed sacrament room, sacristy/robing room, choir room, resource center, nursery, restrooms, kitchen, storage, and administrative space for two Chaplains, Education Director and Assistant.

Additionally, some of the funding will be used for connection to the energy monitoring and control system (EMCS) and interior communications/building information systems and supporting utilities and other expenses in building of the Chapel Center.

Request No. 2:

Requesting Member: Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction/ U.S. Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force/Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Address of Requesting Entity: Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama 36112-5000.

Description of Request: This funding will be used for the Air and Space Basic Course Combat Arms Training Facility at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. The funding will be used to construct a 56-position, 50-meter small arms firing range with automated range target system, and a 639 SM support facility constructed with reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab, structural steel frame, masonry walls and sloped architecturally compat-

ible roof. The \$15,556,000 for this project was also included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE NELSON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Irene Norman Nelson on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Irene Nelson is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. She has been a longtime and treasured friend to my family and me. She is a woman of impeccable class, grace and integrity. She has a love and appreciation of life that is inspiring. And she has a wonderful sense of humor.

I cherish my memories of being with Irene at family events, vacations and trips to the theater. I enjoy our conversations. I admire her commitment to the arts and all things beautiful.

Madam Speaker, as a U.S. Congressman, I am privileged to meet many fascinating and incredible people. Irene, without a doubt, is at the top of that list.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Irene Nelson a happy and healthy birthday.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5170, H.R. 5983, H.R. 5531, H.R. 2490, H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806, H.R. 3815, and H.R. 6098

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of these Homeland Security bipartisan measures. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their efforts to bring these bills to the floor today. I would also like to congratulate the authors of these bills Congresswoman HARMAN and Congressmen CARNEY, LANGEVIN, KING, BILIRAKIS, REICHERT, and PERLMUTTER.

Individually, the bills presented today improve operations within the Department of Homeland Security, including issues related to privacy, information sharing and enhanced security. Collectively, they improve on the provisions of H.R. 1, the Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act.

Protecting the privacy of our citizens is an important but very difficult issue to balance in our Nation's war against terrorism. Under H.R. 1570, the presence of a full-time Component Privacy Officer would ensure that privacy considerations remain at the forefront and are integrated into the decisionmaking process at all of the DHS Components.

Through our oversight work, it is clear that DHS's information systems have been penetrated and remain vulnerable to cyber attacks. H.R. 5983, the Homeland Security Network Defense and Accountability Act of 2008, represents a critical step toward improving the cybersecurity network at DHS by ensuring a robust defense of its information systems, and

holding individuals at all levels accountable for mitigating vulnerabilities.

While protecting DHS information systems is critical to our Nation's security, we also need to be mindful of the importance and need for information sharing. H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806 and H.R. 3815 address the need for information sharing in a secure manner. H.R. 6193—Improving Public Access to Documents Act of 2008— dovetails with H.R. 4086's effort to remove obstacles to more and better information sharing in the unclassified category.

Our offshore territories are the first point of entry to the U.S. for many foreigners and our shores are extremely vulnerable to illegal and possibly terrorist activities. I am pleased that H.R. 5531 will put in motion a plan to deploy next-generation radiological detection technology at our ports of entry to more effectively and more efficiently scan persons and cargo as they enter the United States. I fully support the "Biometric Identification At Sea Pilot Project" which has allowed the Coast Guard to collect biometrics from individuals interdicted in the Caribbean to run them against terrorist and criminal databases. H.R. 5531 and H.R. 2490 address the vulnerabilities of our Caribbean shores.

Madam Speaker, the implementation of these bills would not be possible without our State, local and tribal entities. Fusion Centers provide much needed support to these entities in the implementation of Homeland Security programs. H.R. 6098 requires DHS to allow State and local governments to use Homeland Security grant funding to hire and keep analysts in fusion centers—for however long State and local officials see fit.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and their passage.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for his hard work on this housing package.

What began with a housing bubble, predatory and subprime lending, and loose regulatory enforcement has resulted in a record number of foreclosures across the country, the failure of financial institutions, a reduction in tax revenue for states and local government, a credit crunch, and a lack of confidence in our market that is affecting millions of individuals and families both directly and indirectly.

Families reliant on the continuously increasing housing market entered into loans they could never afford or adjustable-rate mortgages with the assumption they could refinance at a later date.

Loose regulatory enforcement allowed mortgage lenders and originators to engage in predatory lending practices and the housing bubble provided an incentive for lenders to reduce underwriting standards to encourage the creation of new loans.

Furthermore, the failure on the part of the regulators allowed financial institutions to package and sell these risky new loans on the secondary market with the highest ratings from the rating agencies.